

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐
no ☐

Property Name: Union Memorial United Methodist Church Inventory Number: PG:79-20
Address: 14418 Old Marlboro Pike City: Upper Marlboro Zip Code: 20772
County: Prince Georges USGS Topographic Map: Upper Marlboro
Owner: United Methodith Church Is the property being evaluated a district? ☐ yes
Tax Parcel Number: 29 Tax Map Number: 101 Tax Account ID Number: 0246488
Project: PG416A21 Agency: SHA
Site visit by MHT staff: ☒ no ☐ yes Name: _____ Date: _____
Is the property is located within a historic district? ☐ yes ☒ no

If the property is within a district District Inventory Number: _____
NR-listed district ☐ yes Eligible district ☐ yes Name of District: _____
Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource ☐ yes ☐ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context ☐ yes

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district) Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible ☒ yes ☐ no

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Compliance files

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The Union Memorial Methodist Church is a one story, five-bay frame structure with a central entrance tower and bell-cote. Built in 1916 on the site of the old Union Chapel which was organized in 1863 and also served as a school for blacks, the Union United Methodist Church has been an important focal point for the Black community in Upper Marlboro. Although the structure has a substantial addition on the northwest side and is covered with new synthetic siding, the Union United Methodist Church is significant for its association with the African American community in Upper Marlboro and is eligible under Criterion A for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Prepared by: Liz Buxton

Date Prepared: 06/21/2002

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended ☒
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

MHT Comments Alterations have compromised integrity.

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

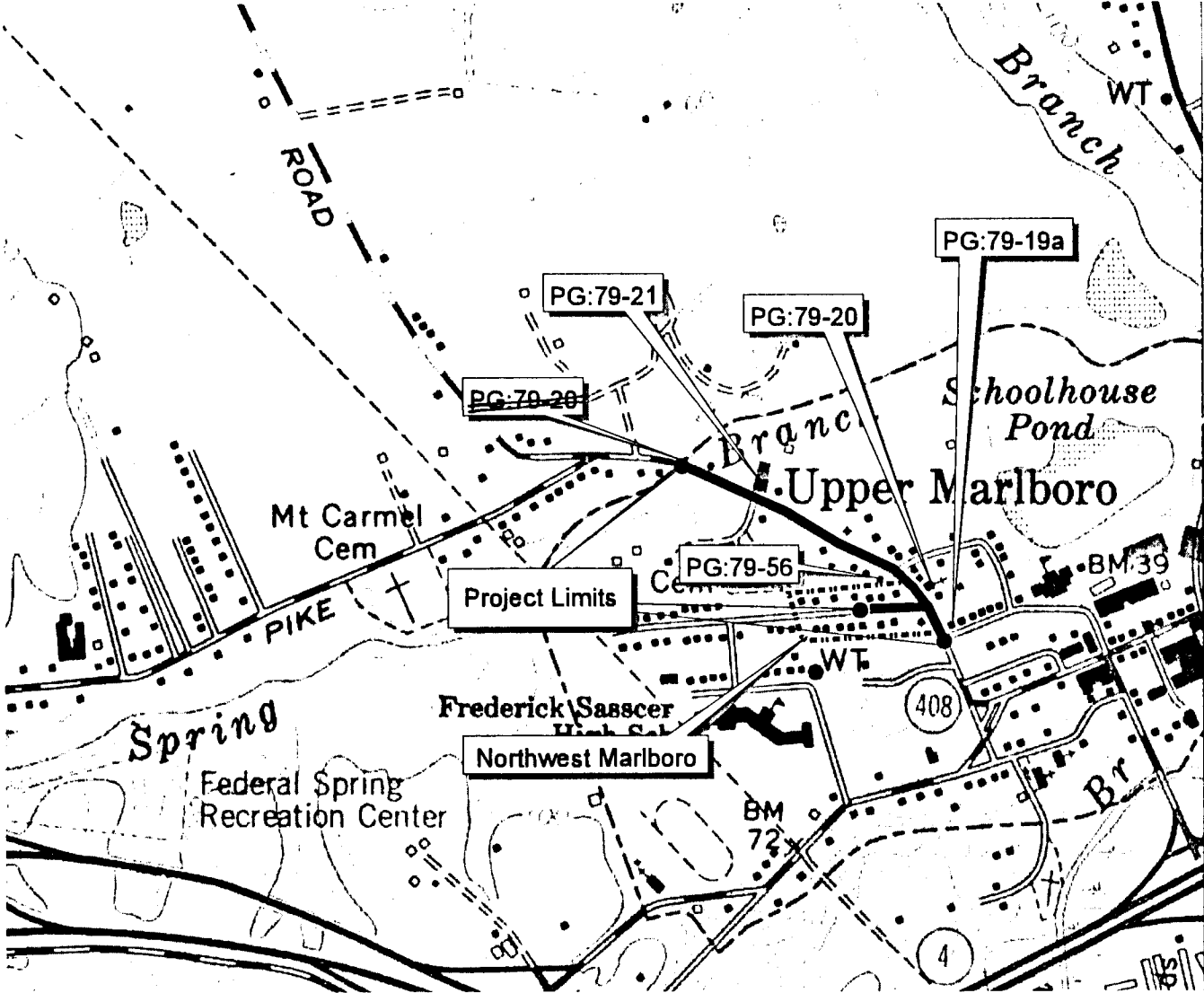
Reviewer, NR Program

Date

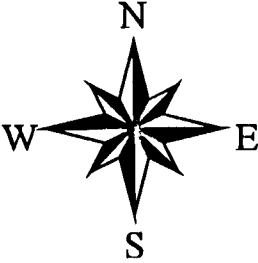
Date

200204519

MD 725 from Federal Springs Branch to Elm Street
Prince George's County
Upper Marlboro Quad
Attachment 1 showing APE



PG:79-20
USGS Topo Quad Index
County





P.O. Box
Union United Methodist Church
Pike County
1108 S. 1st Main St
L. Benton

11/12

Lettering 11/12

11/1



PL 79-20

P. C. County

1448 Old Marlboro Pike

Le Buxton

4/02

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #79-20 Building Date: 1916
Building Name: Union United Methodist Church
Location: 14418 Old Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Private/Religious/Occupied/Excellent/Accessible

Description

Union United Methodist Church is a frame gable-roof church of the meeting-house style; it is distinguished by its three-story entry tower, and its prominent location fronting on the main road into the County Seat. The nave of the church is lighted by 1/1 double hung sash windows with shallow pointed-arch transoms; the windows are filled with modern colored glass memorial panes. The original wood siding, covered in the 1940's with red asphalt shingle, is now covered with white grained aluminum siding. Extending to the east, inset from both the north and south elevations of the main building, is a lower gable-roof sanctuary, two bays in depth; siding, windows and roof treatment are the same as that of the main block. The foundation of the building is of molded concrete block, sheathed with decorative stone facing. The church was renovated 1973-1975; the interior features wood pews, separated by a central aisle, the walls sheathed with wood panelling, and a new dropped ceiling composed of light synthetic panels. The five windows on each long side of the nave, as well as the two west windows which flank the narthex, are filled with modern colored glass; all windows are memorials. The sanctuary contains a raised altar centered between the pastor's study on the south, and a small storage room on the north.

Significance

Union United Methodist Church is a noticeable landmark in the town of Upper Marlboro. For more than 70 years it has been a symbol of the local black Methodist community, and it continues the tradition of Union Chapel, the black Methodist church established in Upper Marlboro at the end of the Civil War. During the early years of this century, there was a movement to replace the deteriorating Union Chapel at a location closer to the center of town. In 1913, Ida M. Bowie deeded to the trustees of Union Chapel approximately one-half acre of land which fronted on the Old Washington Marlborough Turnpike. Construction of the new church was directed by Joseph Wyvill, and much of the construction work was done by members of the congregation. The new church, known originally as Union Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, was opened in 1916. Between 1973 and 1975, a renovation project was undertaken; although substantially altered by the installation of aluminum siding and new colored glass memorial windows, the church is still a prominent visual feature on the road into Marlboro. It has an active congregation, serves as a meeting place for several community organizations, and continues the 120 year old tradition of the black Methodist community of Upper Marlboro.

Acreage: 27,300 square feet

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. P.G.#79-20

Magi No. 1703004708

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Union Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church

and/or common Union United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number 14418 Old Marlboro Pike (Maryland Route 725) ☐ not for publicationcity, town Upper Marlboro ☐ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of Union United Methodist Church

street & number 14418 Old Marlboro Pike telephone no.:

city, town Upper Marlboro state and zip code 20772

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 90

street & number Main Street folio 245

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 ☐ federal ☐ state ☒ county ☐ local

depository for survey records History Division, M-NCPPC

city, town Riverdale state Maryland 20737

7. Description

Survey No. PG#79-20

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☐ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Union United Methodist Church is a frame gable-roof church of the meeting-house style; it is distinguished by its three-story entry tower, and its prominent location fronting on the main road into the County Seat.

The nave is five bays long with entrance into the west gable end through a three-story bell tower which projects from the central west bay. Entrance into the tower is through panelled wooden double doors with a pointed-arch transom; the entrance is surmounted by a shallowly projecting gable, and is approached by a flight of steps covered with green outdoor carpet. The tower serves as the narthex and is lighted by a 1/1 double hung sash window on each of its north and south elevations. Like the windows in the nave, the narthex windows are filled with modern colored glass. The second story of the tower is lighted on the west elevation only, by two 1/1 side-by-side double hung sash windows. Marking the division between the second and third stories of the tower is a pent roof on all four sides; it is covered with patterned metal shingle. Above this is an open belfry, partially enclosed by four courses of aluminum siding; it is surmounted by a steep eight-faceted pyramidal roof with a shallower four-plane pent roof which repeats the lines of the lower pent. This roof is also covered with patterned metal shingle.

The nave of the church is five bays long, lighted by 1/1 double hung sash windows with shallow pointed-arch transoms. The windows are filled with (modern) colored glass memorial panes. The original wood siding, covered in the 1940's with red asphalt shingle, is now covered with white grained aluminum siding. The long planes of the gable roof are covered with gray asbestos shingle; there is a deep overhang at the eaves, and the soffits are covered with aluminum wainscoting. There are two asymmetrically-placed corbelled brick chimneys, one on the north between third and fourth bays, and one on the south between third and fourth bays. These chimneys served two stoves which originally warmed the main building.

Extending to the east, inset from both the north and south elevations of the main building, is a lower gable-roof sanctuary, two bays in depth; this section of the church was added a decade or so after the construction of the nave. Siding, windows and roof treatment are the same as that of the main block. The original opening in the east wall of the sanctuary was closed during the renovations of the 1970's. Entrance is through a door in the first bay of the two-bay south elevation, accessible by a small porch. There is one pointed-arch window to the east of this door, and one similar window lights the north elevation of the sanctuary.

The foundation of the building is of molded concrete block, recently sheathed with decorative stone facing. The foundation encloses a full

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. PG#79-20

Description (continued)

Section 7 Page 2

basement, which consists of a large meeting room and kitchen. These spaces are lighted by small windows opening from the foundation; they have sills of the same gray stone. Entrance to the basement spaces is by an outside stair, with steps that lead down into the south bay of the east gable end.

The nave of the church was renovated 1973-1975. There are eleven rows of new, plain wood pews, separated by a central aisle. The walls are sheathed with new wood panelling, i.e., vertical wainscoting with an ornamental belt course. There is a new dropped ceiling composed of light synthetic panels which cover the original wood-lined ceiling. There are two rectangular ducts which project into the nave, asymmetrically positioned to use the two chimneys. These flues originally served the two stoves which warmed the seating area; the southerly (larger) duct area now contains the furnace and air conditioning facility. The five windows on each long side of the nave, as well as the two west windows which flank the narthex, are filled with modern colored glass, installed during the renovation of the 1970's. All of these windows are memorials, dedicated to the Brooks, Barnett, Henderson, Washington, Johnson, Ford, Mason, Wilson, Galloway, Ellis, Stevenson, Frazier, Cleveland, Pinkney, Satawhite, Owens, Sellman, Stewart, Smith and Tolson families.

The sanctuary extends to the east, and contains a raised altar centered between the pastor's study on the south, and a small storage room on the north.

The church stands on a small town lot, fronting on, but slightly lower than, the roadbed of Old Marlboro Pike. In front (west) of the entrance is a small semicircular garden planted with flowers and shrubs. Circling the church in horse-shoe configuration is an unpaved drive; east of the church is a small parking area, framed by deciduous trees and behind them is a small wooded area. North of the church, on a separate parcel now owned by the church, is a two-part frame dwelling dating from the late nineteenth century. Several large maples stand to the north of the church, along the boundary of the dwelling lot.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG#79-20

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify

Specific dates 1916 Builder/Architect Joseph Wyvill

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Union United Methodist Church is a noticeable landmark in the town of Upper Marlboro. For more than 70 years it has been a symbol of the local black Methodist community, and it continues the tradition of Union Chapel, the black Methodist church established in Upper Marlboro at the end of the Civil War.

In October 1865, Dr. Frederick Sasscer, who lived at Kingston (#79-13) and was one of the principal landowners in the Marlborough area, deeded five acres of his farmland to three black men, Henson Greenleaf, Nicholas Greenleaf, and George Bowling, trustees appointed by the Washington Conference of the Methodist Church. The land was to be used for the establishment of a church and burying ground for the local black Methodist community.¹ The church which was built on this site, south of the town and near the Western Branch, came to be known as Union Chapel. It provided a place of worship for local black Methodists who had before the Civil War worshipped with the white community in a Methodist church which stood on the west side of town, just west of the Washington-Marlboro Pike.²

From the beginning, members of Union Chapel were active in the Negro education movement. The three trustees of the Church became the president, secretary and treasurer (respectively) of the Colored Free School Society, and began to raise money for the establishment of a school. The newly established Freedmen's Bureau oversaw the building of a schoolhouse on land adjoining the Church. Classes were held in Union Chapel while the schoolhouse was under construction; the new school opened in April 1868.³

For more than a half-century, Union Chapel was a focal point for the black community of Upper Marlboro; it belonged to the black Methodist circuit which included also Brooks Chapel near Nottingham, Niles Chapel near Centreville, and Carroll Chapel at Mitchellville.⁴

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

Survey No. PG#79-20

Section 8 Page 2

During the early years of this century, there was a movement to replace the deteriorating Union Chapel at a location closer to the center of Upper Marlboro, and farther from swampy land at the Western Branch. In 1913, Ida M. Bowie deeded to nine trustees of Union Chapel approximately one-half acre of land which fronted on the Old Washington Marlborough Turnpike about 1,500 feet north of the old chapel, and just across the Turnpike from the ante-bellum Methodist Church.⁵ The construction of the new church was directed by Joseph Wyvill, a carpenter who lived in Upper Marlboro, and who, with his brothers, had built the Roman Catholic churches in Upper Marlboro and Piscataway (P.G. #79-44 and #84-10). Much of the construction work was done by members of Union Chapel's congregation.⁶ The old Union Chapel was demolished, and its site was used for camp meetings; the adjoining cemetery remains in use to the present day.

The new church, known as Union Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, was opened in 1916. It quickly became an important focal point for the black community; with its prominent bell tower, it has always been an established visual landmark. Union Memorial Church was used for high school graduation exercises and other special events until the construction of Frederick Douglass High School in the mid-1930's. Shortly after World War II the wood siding of the Church was covered with red asphalt shingle. In 1968, through Conference policy, the name of the Church was changed to Union United Methodist Church.⁷

Between 1973 and 1975, a renovation project was undertaken by Union United Methodist Church. The asphalt shingle was removed and replaced with aluminum siding, and the concrete block foundation was covered with a stone facing. Interior renovations included the installation of new pews, dropped ceiling, wall panelling, and carpets. The original clear glass in the 2/1 windows and pointed-arch transoms was replaced with modern colored glass in red, blue, green and gold, memorials to many of the church families. The pointed-arch altar window was closed, and minor changes were made in the chancel spaces.⁸ The newly refurbished church building is still a prominent visual feature on the road into Marlboro. It has an active congregation, serves as a meeting place for several community organizations, and continues the 120 year old tradition of the black Methodist community of Upper Marlboro.

Notes

- 1 Prince George's County Deed FS #3:189.
- 2 Minutes of the 111th Session of the Baltimore Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church; Prince George's County Equity #2486.
- 3 Freedmen's Bureau papers, 1866-68, National Archives.
- 4 Prince George's County Record HB #12:425.
- 5 Prince George's County Deed #90:245; Prince George's County Equity #2486.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

Survey No. PG#79-20

Section 8 Page 3

6 Interview with church members, September 1988.

7 ibid.

8 ibid.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G.#79-20

Interviews with church members
cf. Notes, Item #8
cf. Chain of Title

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property 27,300 square feet
Quadrangle name Upper Marlboro

TM 101, parcel 29
Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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G

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl; Research/Architectural Historian

c/o M-NCPPC

organization P.G. Historic Preservation Commission

date October 1982/September 1988

street & number 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive, CAB, Rm4010 telephone 952-3521

city or town Upper Marlboro

state Maryland 20772

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

Chain of Title
Union United Methodist Church
PG#79-20

#90:245
21 Aug 1913
Deed

Ida M. Bowie et al to Frank Pinkney, George W. Hamilton, Edward Clark, Osborne Stewart, Jupiter Lee, Thomas Galloway, Jr., George Coale, Edward Gross, and John Stevenson, trustees of Union Memorial Church, for \$150, in trust for the use and benefit of the Ministry and Members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Washington Conference; beginning at the end of the Frank Hall lot on the main road known as the Washington Marlborough Turnpike, then with the road 121 feet to the Sweeney lot, then with the Sweeney line back 220 feet to the Tilghman lot, then with the Tilghman lot 87 feet to a point in a straight line with Frank Hall's fence, then with that line 197 feet to the beginning; part of lot 4 conveyed to Ida Bowie et al by John A. Baker, executor of Ann H. Bowie, by #47:437. Grantors are all heirs of Frank M. Bowie, deceased.

P. G. #79-20

1916

Union Memorial Methodist Church
14418 Old Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, Md.
Priv/Occ/Relig/Excellent

Union Memorial is a one-story five-bay gable-roofed frame structure presently sheathed with new synthetic siding. Entrance is through double doors in a tall tower centered on the west gable end. The tower is surmounted above its second story by an open bellcote, the roof of which is covered with patterned tin.

In 1865, the Sasscer family of Upper Marlboro deeded five acres of land to three Black trustees for the purpose of establishing a Methodist church and graveyard for the Black community of Marlboro. The church, which came to be known as Union Chapel, and the Freedmen's Bureau school, which was soon built next to it, became the center of a small Black community which grew up on the southwest edge of town. The present Union Memorial Church was built in 1916 on land some 1500 feet north of the old Chapel. Although the old Chapel remained standing as a community gathering place for several years after the construction of Union Memorial, the new church soon became an important focal point for the Black community and was the site of high school graduations and other special events until the construction of Frederick Douglass High School in the mid-1930's. It is a significant site in the Black religious and community history of Prince George's County.

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. P.G.#79-20

Magi No. 1703004708

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Union Memorial United Methodist Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 14418 Old Marlboro Pike. ☐ not for publication

city, town Upper Marlboro ☐ vicinity of congressional district 4

state Maryland 20772 county P.G.

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of Union Memorial Church

street & number 14418 Old Marlboro Pike telephone no.: 627-5088

city, town Upper Marlboro state and zip code Md., 20772

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P. G. Co. Courthouse liber 90

street & number Main Street folio 245

city, town Upper Marlboro state Md.,

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title P. G. County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 ☐ federal ☐ state ☒ county ☐ local

depository for survey records History Division, M-NCPPC

city, town Riverdale state Md., 20737

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #79-20

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☐ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Union Memorial is a one-story 5-bay gable roofed frame structure presently sheathed with new synthetic siding. Entrance is through a central porch tower on the west gable end. This tower is surmounted above its second story by an open bell-cote, the roof of which is covered with patterned tin. The double entrance door into the tower has a triangular fanlight above, as do the 2 flanking windows on the west gable end, and the five windows on the north and south long facades.

There are two brick chimneys with coursed caps: on the south slope of the roof between third and fourth bays, and on the north slope between third and fourth bays.

At the east gable end, there is a two-bay rear addition, one-story but with lower roof line than the main church building.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G. #79-20

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	1916	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria:	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	
and/or		
Applicable Exception:	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

In October 1865, one of Upper Marlboro's most prominent families deeded 5 acres of land immediately south of Trinity Episcopal Church to Henson Greenleaf, Nicholas Greenleaf, and George Bowling. These three men had been appointed by the Washington Colored Methodist Conference, to purchase land for the establishment of a church and graveyard for the use of the Colored Methodist Church. The church, which came to be known as Union Chapel, was soon built and became the center of a small Black community at the Southwest edge of Upper Marlboro beside the Western Branch. Within a few years, a small frame school-house was built near the church.

The present Union Memorial Church was built in 1916 on land some 1500 feet to the north of the old Union Chapel, which had been conveyed to nine trustees of the Union Memorial M. E. Church three years earlier. Although the old chapel remained standing as a community gathering place for several years after the construction of Union Memorial, the new church soon became an important focal point for the Black community, and was the site of high school graduations and other special events until the construction of Frederick Douglass High School in the mid 1930's. Today, Union Memorial United Methodist Church, recently renovated and in good condition, serves a busy congregation and serves as the meeting place for several community organizations.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G.#79-20

P. G. County Deeds: FS #3:189; HB #12:425; #90:245

Interviews with church members.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl; Historic Sites Research Coordinator

organization History Division M-NCPPC date October 1982

street & number 4811 Riverdale Road telephone 779-2011

city or town Riverdale state Md., 20737

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

1703004708
RA: #79-20

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON:				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Union Memorial Methodist Church				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: Route 408				
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro				
STATE Maryland		COUNTY: Prince George's		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific				
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____				
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: Union Memorial Methodist Church				
STREET AND NUMBER: Route 408				
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro		STATE: Maryland		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Prince George's County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro		STATE: Maryland		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY: None				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		

7. DESCRIPTION

PG:79-20

CONDITION

(Check One)
☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☒ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

☒ Altered ☐ Unaltered

(Check One)

☐ Moved ☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The building is a one story frame structure covered with asbestos brick siding. It has a central porch tower with a pointed-arched fanlight over the double doors, a square-headed window above the doors, and an open bellcote with a double hipped roof. The facade has a window on either side of the tower and there are five windows along each flank; these windows have triangular lights above the architrave of the square headed sash.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☒ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1917

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The church was organized in 1863 and served as a school for Negroes, being one of the earliest public schools for Negroes. The present building was completed in 1917; it is an interesting example of the country vernacular expression of early twentieth century architectural ideas.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Christopher Owens, Park Historian	
ORGANIZATION M-NCPPC	DATE 5/9/73
STREET AND NUMBER: 8787 Georgia Avenue	
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring	STATE Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Metro Life

Washington Star-News

Friends Take To Hart

... Page B-3

OBITUARIES—COMICS B

WASHINGTON, D. C., MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1973

WORSHIPPERS FAINT, PRAY

Gunmen Grab Church Offering

By Chris Lorenzo and Woody West
Star-News Staff Writer

Two men wearing stocking masks burst into the Union Methodist Church in Upper Marlboro yesterday just as services were ending, held a shotgun on some 75 worshippers, scooped up money from a collection plate and fled, Prince Georges County police said.

Several of the women fainted and most of the other 70 worshippers fell to their knees and prayed aloud as one bandit, armed with a shotgun, marched down the aisle toward the altar, according to the Rev. Thomas N. Hawkins, a visitor.

Although the gunmen didn't harm anyone, three ambulances took several people to Prince Georges General Hos-

pital after the bandits left, authorities said. Some of the parishioners are still in the hospital, being treated for "heart problems," Hawkins said.

POLICE and witnesses gave this account:

Earl Dade, who has been an usher for 20 years at the church on Main Street, said he was standing at an inner door about 12:30 p.m. when he heard someone in the lobby. The congregation was singing the last hymn before services would end:

"They were pushing the (inner) door to come in and I opened it and they walked in," recalled Dade. "The one with the shotgun said to keep quiet and hand over the money. But I told him it was up front on the altar."

The bandit armed with a pistol re-

mained on guard at the door and the other one, brandishing a shotgun, stomped down the aisle. Dade said.

AS WORSHIPPERS spied the gunman, they quit singing, Dade said, and dropped to their knees or flat on the floor, where they began moaning or praying.

Meanwhile, the bandit, arriving at the altar, told Rev. Hawkins to "Give me all of it," and a lay reader, Benjamin Johnson, handed over the church's offering in three collection plates. He said there was about \$50 in the plates.

While the gunman took his booty back up the aisle, Rev. Hawkins began urging the worshippers, many of whom were crying, to calm down and remain kneeling.

Up by the door, Rev. Hawkins said,

the gunman cleaned out some cash from one collection plate but ignored money in the two underneath it.

IT WAS not known why the bandit didn't take all the money. "When he was taking the money out of the envelope, I heard him say the word, 'church,'" said Dade, "but whether he was leaving the rest for the church or thought that was all, I just don't know."

The bandits then ran out, Dade said, and some worshippers went to the windows to watch them leave while others called the police. Hawkins today said the gunmen should have listened to his sermon there that "they that turn many to righteousness will shine forever and ever."

"At least they let me finish my sermon," Hawkins said.

PG:79-20

MARLBOROUGH TOWNE APTS.
PARCEL 'A'

R-T 6201

SCHOOL HOUSE POND

STATE OF
MARYLAND
5156/83
6.39 A
P. 250

R80

P.G. CO.
4411/183
11.00A.
P. 258

O-S

M.N.C.P. & P.C.
4413/241
805
P. 74

C-O

R-55

8621

6639

R-55

P.G. CO.
3.52A.
P. 25

ELM ST.

C-S-C

R-80

79-20

ELIZABETH
CLAGETT
CM. 1512
5.00A.
P. 55

T. VAN CLAGETT
2509-174
3.21A
P. 50

C-O

P.G. CO.
3190/520
5.48A
P. 266

TRINITY
CHURCH
3296/253

R-R

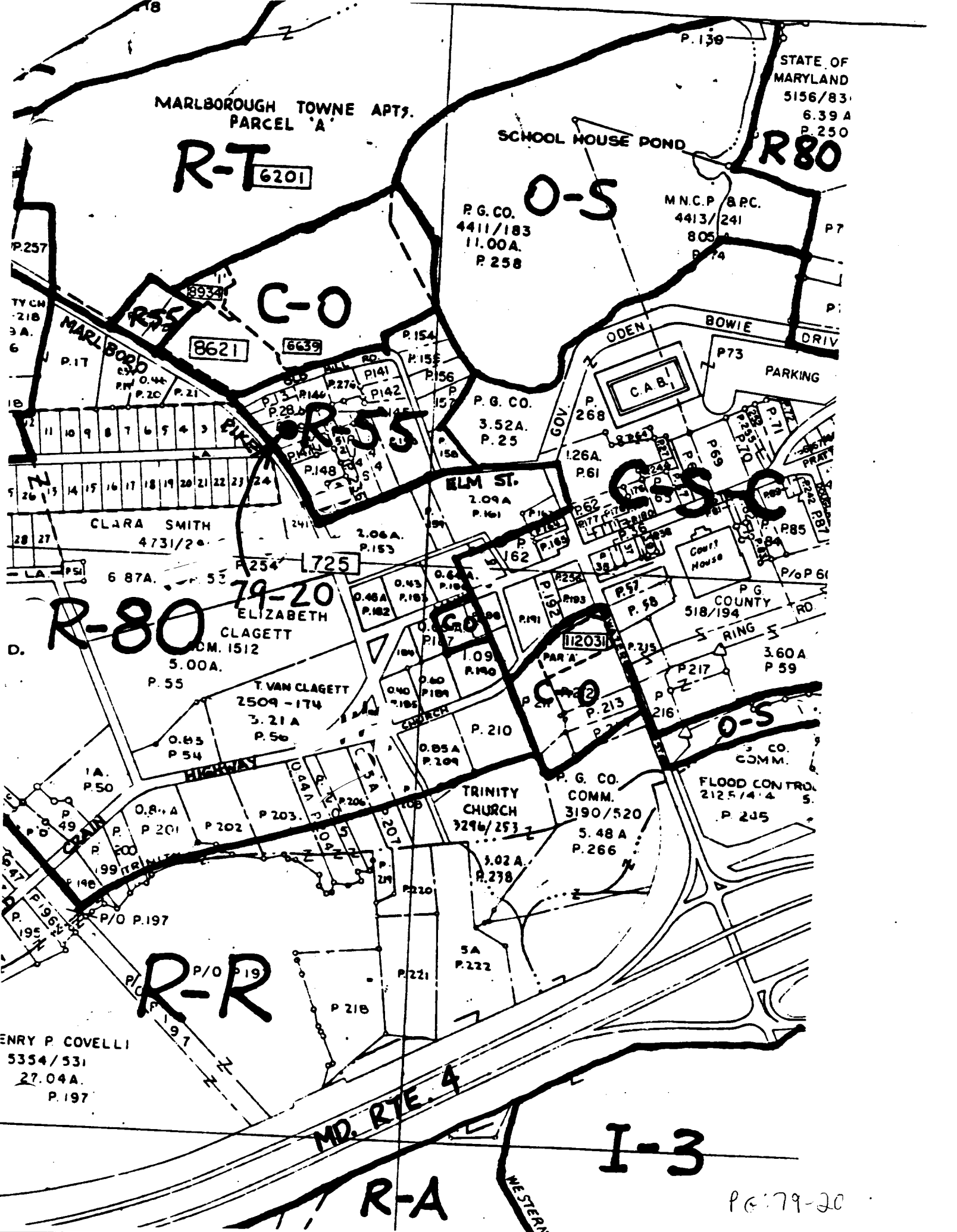
MD. RTE. 4

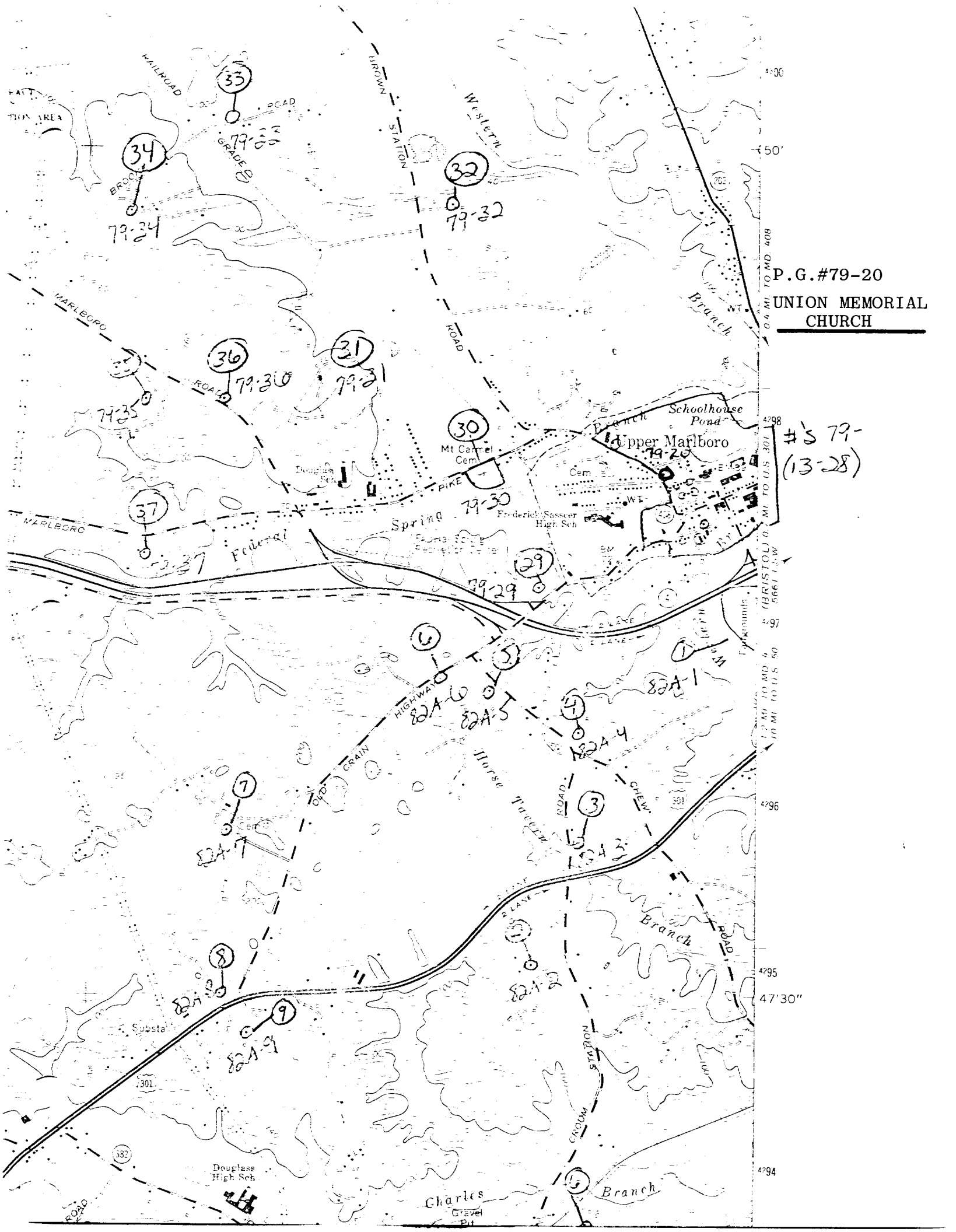
I-3

R-A

PG 79-20

ENRY P. COVELLI
5354/531
27.04A.
P. 197





P.G.#79-20
UNION MEMORIAL CHURCH

#s 79-
(13-28)



7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31

Union U.M. Church
Prince Georges Co., MD
Susan E. Paul
September 1978
West elevation
Neg. M.D. Hist. Trust
Annapolis, MD



R. # 79.20

Union U. M. Church
Prace, George's Co, MD
Susan L. Pearl

Northwest 3/4 elevation

September 1988

Wg: MD Heat. Trust
Annapolis, MD.

2-5-8



PL # 79-20

Union U. M. Church

Prince Georges Co., MD

Susan S. Pearl

September 1988

Interior from southwest

Neg. MD Hist. Trust

(Annapolis, MD)



79 # 79.20

Union U.M. Church

Prince Georges Co., MD

Susan A. Earl

September 1988

North elevation

Neg: MD Hist. Trust
Annapolis, MD



Vol. 11 29-20

Union U.M. Church

Prince Georges County, MD

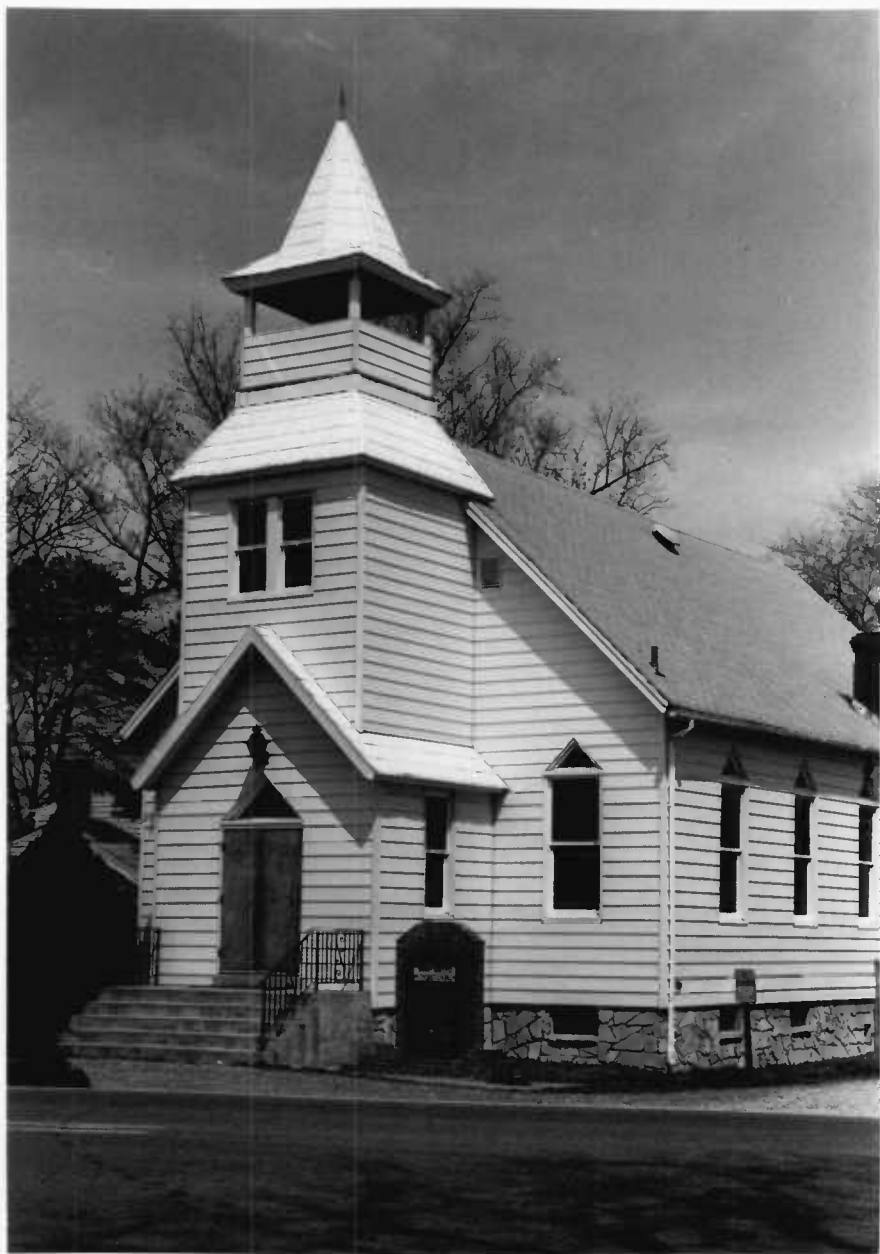
Susan P. Pearl

September 1988

Southeast 1/4 elevation

Reg. 7110 Dist. Trust

Annapolis, MD



P. G. #79-20

Union Memorial U. M. Church
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
March 1983
Southwest 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.

P. G. # 79-20



NAME ~~UNION~~ UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (NEGRO)
LOCATION HARLBORO PIKE & RECTORY CA., UPPER HARLB.
FACADE W.
PHOTO TAKEN 5/9/73 M. DWYER

PG: 79-20